



Weekly Drought Brief Monday March 10, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Varied amounts of rain and snow fell over the past week across much of the state. Precipitation totals (in inches) from Monday, March 3 through Sunday, March 9:

- **Folsom: 0.75"** in the last week. 11.77" since July 1, 69% of normal by this date.
- **Fresno: 0.00"** in the last week. 3.40" since July 1, 40% of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy: 1.50"** in the last week. 14.44" since July 1, 53% of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles: 0.00"** in the last week. 5.47" since July 1, 46% of normal by this date.
- **Modesto: .31"** in the last week. 4.92" since July 1, 49% of normal by this date.
- **Oroville: 2.72"** in the last week. 15.04" since July 1, 60% of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines: 2.08"** in the last week. 18.92" since July 1, 47% of normal by this date.
- **Redding: 3.48"** in the last week. 16.64" since July 1, 63% of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento: 0.45"** in the last week. 6.98" since July 1, 42% of normal by this date.
- **Shasta: 5.12"** in the last week. 25.52" since July 1, 52% of normal by this date.
- **Willits: 4.48"** in the last week. 24.12" since July 1, 60% of normal by this date.

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: After scattered showers end on Monday, the rest of the week will likely be dry across California, as a strong high pressure area develops over the West Coast.

****Despite above average rain and snow in February, much of California has received only about 50% of normal precipitation for this rainy season. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California very frequently from now until May to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years.****

Snow survey: The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on February 27, recorded California snowpack at 24% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 31% of normal as of March 9.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of March 1 are very low, including: Don Pedro 53%; Exchequer 22%; Folsom Lake 38%; Lake Oroville 44%; Millerton Lake 32%; New Melones 44%; Pine Flat 20%; San Luis 36%; Shasta 43%; and Trinity Lake 50%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 665 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 1,388 acres. CALFIRE reports that this current fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 223 fires, burning 773 acres. 22 new fires were reported over the past week.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

Federal Government

- **President signs the Drought Information Act:** Congress passed and the President signed last week a federal bill to reauthorize the [National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act](#) (NIDIS). This act enables a federal early warning system for droughts by providing information, forecasts and assessments to vulnerable states. NIDIS was championed by the Western Governors Association, based on the drought vulnerability of western states.

State Government

- **Real-time water management leads to post-storm water supply:** State and federal water management agencies working together late last week allowed exports of additional water from the Delta based on the recent storm. This recent precipitation provided a small window of opportunity to capture additional water for storage both north and south of the Delta, so state and federal water projects have [increased pumping](#) for a limited time to capture as much water as possible under current regulatory standards. This action is being closely coordinated with state and federal fishery agencies and the State Water Board, which is exercising flexibility allowed under law. This real-time water management will continue to adjust operations to maximize water for beneficial uses.
- **Local Drought Clearinghouse:** The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has organized an information clearinghouse to help local governments and water agencies with drought related questions or requests. Debbie Davis, Local Drought Liaison, is leading this effort (drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov, 1-916-327-0068). The Clearinghouse plans to publish a drought toolkit for local governments later this week.
- **Outreach to home improvement stores:** The California Department of General Services is contacting home improvement companies to request that they promote water conservation products at their stores and amplify the state's water conservation message in the coming months.
- **Government Facilities Training Workshop:** The Department of General Services is also holding a water conservation training workshop for managers of government facilities on Wednesday (March 12th), which will help facility managers take short and longer term actions to conserve water in government facilities across the state.
- **State Funding:** The Department of Finance is helping several state agencies and departments expedite preparation of emergency drought funding, so that support will be available to impacted individuals and communities in the coming weeks and months.
- **Food assistance system being developed:** The California Department of Social Services and the Office of Emergency Services are establishing a drought related food assistance system to ensure that needy communities can access emergency food as the drought intensifies and agricultural related unemployment grows.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 29 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brookside Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) over 100 local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 24 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Amador, Butte, Fresno, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
California State Water Project, [Information](#)
USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster.